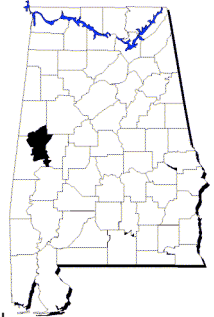


GREENE COUNTY

Honorable Lillie Jones-Osborne

Greene County Courthouse
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Eutaw, AL 35462
(205) 372-3143



Rachel S. Babb
Michael Barton
Chris "Chip" Beeker
Lucius Black
Alexander Braswell
Shirley Brown
Edna Chambers
Danny Cooper
Ada Anderson-Davis
Dionne Edison
Moses D. Finch
Audrey Haskin
Johnny Isaac
Rosa Johnson
Gwen Johnson

Allen Jones
Samuel Kimbrough
Coretta Kirkland
Johnnie Knott
Anita Lewis
Valerie Lockett
Jack Martin
Pearson McGhee
Patricia Moore
Bobbie Morgan
Leona Morrow
Eula Morton
Monica Morrow
Lillie Jones-Osborne
Katie Jones-Powell

Douglas L. Ragland
Rhinnie Scott
Charles Steele
Raymond Steele
Emma Sugars
Allen Turner, Sr.
Debra Waiters
Geraldine Walton
Judy Walters
Joe Webb
Chasity Williams
Anthony Woods
Carol Zippert

Council Priorities

1. State funding to establish a Resource Center in Greene County

It is difficult for policy council's rural areas to receive support and donations when businesses and resources are limited. State funding would allow all counties to have Resource Centers.

2. Additional funding for adolescent mental health program

Mental health councils in rural areas are understaffed with adolescent councils. Many children fall through the "crack" because of the understaffing of counselors.

3. Required parental involvement/parental skills workshop or all parents enrolling children in the school system.

Parental involvement is very important to the child and the school system. Most children do well in school when parents are involved in their school.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Parenting classes

Action Steps

- 1) Establish parenting classes through collaboration with other agencies such as the Department of Human Resources, West Alabama Mental Health and Greene County Health Department.
- 2) Create parent support program for building self-esteem in low income families and families with one parent.
- 3) Host workshop or parenting skills at local public housing complex and community centers in the county.

Quality childcare

Action Steps

- 1) Create brochures and other materials to be sent to all parents in the school district providing information on significant early education programs.
- 2) Establish other programs to meet the needs of Pre-K children who are not able to learn at a normal pace and collaborate with agencies that can identify at-risk pre-school children.
- 3) Partner with agencies to secure funding for the BEE Program.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Workforce Development

Action Steps

- 1) Partner with the Focus Industrial Training Program and enterprise community to attract more participants into the program.
- 2) Work with Greene County Workforce Development Committee to continue to identify strategies to effectively improve the workforce in Greene County.
- 3) Be familiar with regional workforce initiative programs and promote these programs to the community.

Transportation

Action Steps

- 1) Help promote services offered by West Alabama Transportation for medical appointment, job interview, testing, training and employment.
- 2) Promote enterprise community transportation assistance that is related to job preparation, interviews, testing and training sponsor career fairs and community job fairs.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Access to a quality education for all children

Action Steps

- 1) Utilize available resources and programs to reduce the number of students dropping out of school.
- 2) Secure funding to provide conflict resolution/anger management training for teachers, support staff, parents and students.
- 3) Assist local school system where parental involvement coordination is scheduled and hosting quality parent workshops in all areas of the county.
- 4) Continue to determine the effectiveness of the after school tutoring, extended day, and summer enrichment programs as aligned with the school district's academic goals and objectives.

Support system for at-risk students

Action Steps

- 1) Seek funding for educational services to include after school tutoring, extended day programs, and summer enrichment in conjunction with the local school board, faith based and community organizations.
- 2) Continue to work collaboratively with the school district to implement and enforce truancy and its attendance policies.
- 3) Support the school system in securing funds for an after school, Saturday school truancy and detention program.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Birth to unmarried teens

Action Steps

- 1) Conduct a Health Fair at Branch Heights Community Center and provide information to teens and parents on Teen Pregnancy Prevention, STD's and AIDS.
- 2) Participate in county-wide Parent Education Day at each school in the county. Work with DHR and the Extension System to hand out information on "Healthy Relationships and "Responsibilities of Fathers."
- 3) Secure speaker's for schools.

Promote preventive health to children and families

Action Steps

- 1) Promote "Healthy Eating/Healthy Snacking" at the Health Fair at Branch Heights Community Center.
- 2) Conduct programs on Healthy Snacking/Healthy Eating to parents at PTA meetings and parent involvement workshops at the local schools and Head Start.
- 3) Work with local schools to offer healthier choices in their feeding programs.
- 4) Continue working with EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program) DHR, Extension's NEP to teach low income families better and healthier ways to use their food stamp dollars.

Promote dental care for your youth

Action Steps

- 1) Plan and conduct workshops at local schools, Head Start, etc. on the importance of dental care.
- 2) Continue to work with Head Start as they incorporate oral hygiene into their daily curriculum.
- 3) Secure donations of toothbrushes and tooth paste to pass out on Halloween instead of candy.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Community collaboration

Action Steps

- 1) Expand and develop partnerships with Greene County Housing Authority, Greene County Commission, Department of Public Health, Community Aide Center, and others to build Family Resource Center with primary emphasis placed on promoting Health Family Relationships.
- 2) Seek funding through public & private sectors to help with the Resource Center.
- 3) Partner with the faith-based organizations and social agencies to develop programs for the Resource Center.

Parent & guardians; more parent participation in Greene County

Action Steps

- 1) Identify community leaders who could be used as community advocates to work with parents and the school system.
- 2) Use parent liaisons and PTA presidents with Greene County Board of Education as community outreach persons.
- 3) Develop and promote Parental Involvement Activities that empower parents and teach social leadership skills so that parents will partner with school staff to feel more comfortable visiting the school system.

Parent & guardians

Action Steps

- 1) Develop and expand male and female mentoring programs countywide.
- 2) Develop programs to strengthen the role of the father in the home.
- 3) Develop programs to strengthen and address single parents as head of households and promote marriages.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Drug and alcohol abuse

Action Steps

- 1) Expand the Neighborhood Watch Program through the City of Eutaw and Greene County Sheriff's Departments.
- 2) Law Enforcement Agencies will promote safety by seeking to reestablish "Drug Awareness" programs within the school system.
- 3) Develop opportunities for local law enforcement to partner with your service agencies by implementing positive, community based programs (Resource Officers, Junior Deputy League).
- 4) Expand gun safety by continuing to operate the "Gun Lock" safety program.

Child abuse and neglect

Action Steps

- 1) Greene County Department of Human Resources Agency will partner with Law Enforcement to schedule and conduct workshops within the Greene County School System during the upcoming year (2006) on child abuse/neglect. Persons to be included are school personnel, counselors, teachers, para-professionals and other staff. Workshops will be conducted at all county in-service meetings. Presentations will be 20-30 minutes with a question and answer period.
- 2) DHR Liaison will share appropriate forms to be completed with Principals and Counselors at each school by all mandatory reporters.
- 3) Public awareness presentations will be conducted through DHR-CJA Grants (state level support) and literature will be distributed at all workshops as well as with other service agencies.

Policy Recommendations

- State funding for local Children's Policy Council.
- State funding for Art Programs at all elementary and middle schools in school districts.
- Compulsory school attendance to age 18.
- Change sentencing guidelines to reflect tougher penalties in child abuse cases.
- Increase in funding for the Department of Mental Health adolescent drug treatment program.
- Mandatory physical education and nutrition education for all students enrolled in the state school system.
- State required conflict resolutions, anger management and cultural diversity for all teachers, support staff, and students.
- Required parental involvement/parental skills workshop for all parents enrolling children in the state school system.
- Mandatory AIDS screening for all school-aged children.

Accomplishments

- The CPC Parent Involvement and Skills Committee have generated a significant increase in parental involvement county-wide. More than 200 parents attended the 2nd Annual County-wide Tutorial Programs' Awards Banquet held June 23, 2006.
- A consultant has met with the CPC Parent Involvement and Skill Committee and we are making plans for the establishment of a Family Resource Center. The parent involvement committee initiated the clean-up and preparation for the future Family Resource Center with assistance from the Greene County Highway Department, the Greene County Sheriff Department, the Landfill, the Greene County Commissioners and other participants.
- The CPC Parent Involvement and Skills and CPC Education Committee working collaboratively together to plan and implement out 2nd county-wide Parent Orientation Day in all four schools in the School System to be held August 3rd and 4th.
- Supported the Community Aide Center in stocking food, clothing and supplies.
- Presented safety workshop to Greene County High School students that would be attending the high school prom. The City of Eutaw Chief of Police presented a workshop on the dangers of drinking and driving.
- Presented safety forum on issues affecting the youth. The workshop focused on water safety, gun safety, juveniles and the law, and heat safety. The workshop was held at one of the public housing complexes.
- The Policy Council operated it after school tutorial program (The SPOT) for the second year. Throughout the year in addition to tutoring, the children were treated to pizza parties, movie trips and end of year trip to Vision land.
- Organized all the tutorial programs in Greene County. The tutorial sites are working together to provide quality and consistent services to help students do better in school.